



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship August 6, 2023 9:30am
10th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Praeludium”

by J.S. Bach

Linda Dover, organist

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME

INTROIT

“Picardy”

arr. Bob Moore

Kat Mason, flute

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 17)

Stephen Wing

ONE: Go ahead, God, examine us from inside out,

ALL: surprise us in the middle of the night.

ONE: And us? We plan on looking you full in the face.

**ALL: When we get up, we will see your full stature
and live heaven on earth.**

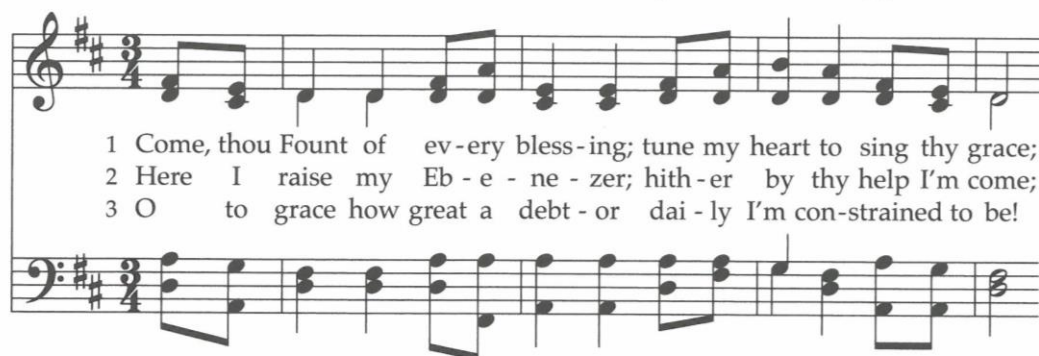
*HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

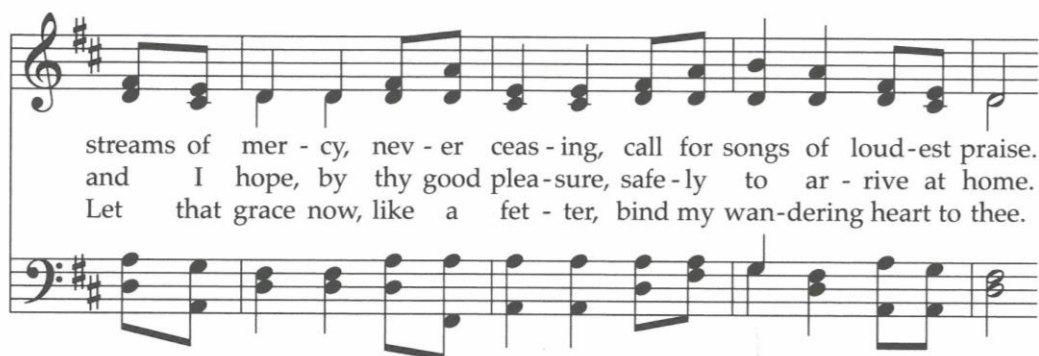
NETTLETON

Kat Mason, flute – Bob Dover, clarinet

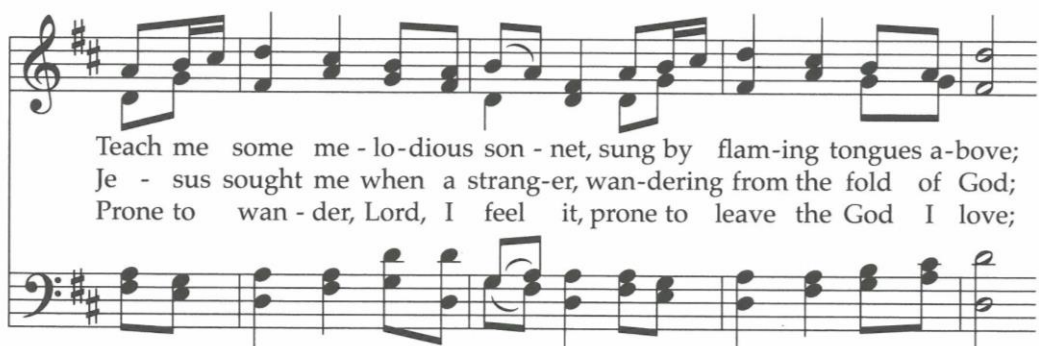
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475



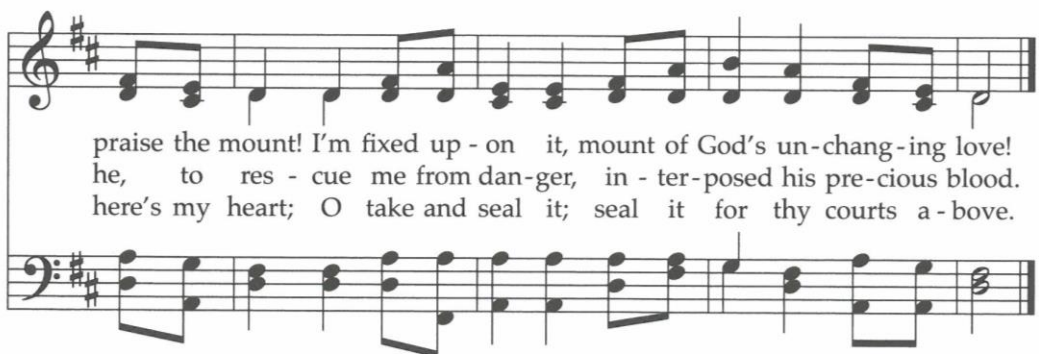
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

“Prickly Boy”

Rev. Stephen Wing

(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. Our Nursery welcomes young children, and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children’s wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Lord, there just is not anything we can say. In this moment, in this prayer, we cannot lie to you. We will not keep up the false front we show to everyone else. So come right in. Rummage through this “home” of ours; the closets where we stuff our lies; the bedrooms of our loneliness; the kitchen where presentation is everything, but with no substance; the bathroom where we try to wash away our own filth. Here it all is, Lord. Clean house. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE (Romans 7:24–25)

**ALL: Wretched creature that I am, who is there
to rescue me from this state of death?**

ONE: Who but God? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you and all others!

*HYMN 698

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”
(Sung Twice)

TAKE ME AS I AM

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.'

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
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TAKE ME AS I AM
7.7.7.4

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 15:11–32 (CEV)

Nancy Kalesz

Jesus told them yet another story:

Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, "Give me my share of the property." So the father divided his property between his two sons.

Not long after that, the younger son packed up everything he owned and left for a foreign country, where he wasted all his money in wild living. He had spent everything, when a bad famine spread through that whole land. Soon he had nothing to eat.

He went to work for a man in that country, and the man sent him out to take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating, but no one gave him a thing.

Finally, he came to his senses and said, "My father's workers have plenty to eat, and here I am, starving to death! I will go to my father and say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son. Treat me like one of your workers.'"

The younger son got up and started back to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran to his son and hugged and kissed him.

The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God in heaven and against you. I am no longer good enough to be called your son."

But his father said to the servants, "Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it, so we can eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead, but has now come back to life. He was lost and has now been found." And they began to celebrate.

The older son had been out in the field. But when he came near the house, he heard the music and dancing. So he called one of the servants over and asked, "What's going on here?"

The servant answered, "Your brother has come home safe and sound, and your father ordered us to kill the best calf." The older brother got so angry that he would not even go into the house. His father came out and begged him to go in. But he said to his father, "For years I have worked for you like a slave and have always obeyed you. But you have never even given me a little goat, so that I could give a dinner for my friends. This other son of yours wasted your money on prostitutes. And now that he has come home, you ordered the best calf to be killed for a feast."

His father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead, but he is now alive. He was lost and has now been found."

ANTHEM

"Foundations"

arr. Joseph Martin

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Linda Dover & Chris Krug, piano 4-hand

Incorporating "How Firm a Foundation" and

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can we say than to you he hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?

All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down.

Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him.

Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?

Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.

Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.

Let us love and pray for others till our God makes all things new.

Then he'll call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.

Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Sing alleluia, alleluia!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 32:22–31 (CEV)

Jacob got up in the middle of the night and took his wives, his eleven children, and everything he owned across to the other side of the Jabbok River for safety. Afterwards, Jacob went back and spent the rest of the night alone.

A man came and fought with Jacob until just before daybreak. When the man saw that he could not win, he struck Jacob on the hip and threw it out of joint. They kept on wrestling until the man said, "Let go of me! It's almost daylight."

"You can't go until you bless me," Jacob replied.

Then the man asked, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

The man said, "From now on, your name will no longer be Jacob. You will be called Israel, because you have wrestled with God and with men, and you have won."

Jacob said, "Now tell me your name."

"Don't you know who I am?" he asked. And he blessed Jacob.

Jacob said, "I have seen God face to face, and I am still alive." So he named the place Peniel. The sun was coming up as Jacob was leaving Peniel. He was limping because he had been struck on the hip,

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Chiseler"

Rev. Stephen Wing

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

by Dietrich Buxtehude

"Choralvorspiel: Lobt Gott, ihr Christen, allzugleich"

(German translation: "Let All Together Praise Our God")

Linda Dover, organist

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayers of the People, and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup – *partake of the bread first and then drink as instructed.*

Music During Communion

“Aria”

by Paul Manz

Prayer After Communion

Sending

*HYMN 695

“Change My Heart, O God”

CHANGE MY HEART

Kat Mason, flute – Bob Dover, clarinet

Change My Heart, O God 695

Cámbiame, Señor 항상진실케

Refrain / Estribillo / 후렴

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.
Cám - bia - me, Se - ñor, con tu gran po - der.
 항 상 진 실 케 내 맘 바 꾸 사

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
Haz - me co - mo tú, tu yo quie - ro ser.
 주 님 의 모 습 닳 게 하 소 서

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.
Tú el al - fa - re - ro, yo el ba - rro soy.
 주 는 토 기 장 이 나 는 진 흙

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Só - lo a tu i - ma - gen, quie - ro siem - pre ser.
 날 빛 으 소 서 기 도 하 오 니

The central image of the potter and the clay in this text comes from Isaiah 64:8 (and there is a similar reference in Jeremiah 18:1-6), while the petition for a changed heart is similar to Psalm 51:10. Such readiness to do God's will is a significant feature of the spiritual life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fuga in F”
Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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